

2. Movement procedures

Maritime Safety Queensland, through the authority of the Regional Harbour Master, has jurisdiction over the safe movement of all shipping within the pilotage area.

2.1 Port control

Port Control (Southport) is a local port service and is the principal tool by which the Regional Harbour Master manages the safe and efficient movement of vessel traffic approaching, departing and operating within the Southport pilotage area. Port Control (call sign Brisbane VTS) is delivered from the Brisbane VTS centre and is manned by trained and qualified Vessel Traffic Service Operators, under the management of the Manager (Vessel Traffic Management) and the Regional Harbour Master (Brisbane).

2.2 Pilotage

Pilotage is compulsory for:

- a ship that is 50 metres or more
- a ship whose owner or master asks for the services of a pilot.
- a ship whose master is directed by the Regional Harbour Master to use the services of a pilot.
- a 'small ship' less than 35 metres (the relevant ship) if:
 - ❖ it is combined with another small ship for propelling one of the ships.
 - ❖ the total combination length of the ships is 50 metres or more.

2.3 Booking a vessel movement requirements

Section 171 to 176 of the [*Transport Operations \(Marine Safety\) Regulation 2016*](#) require that all ship movements for vessels 35 metres in length or more within the Southport pilotage area are reported to Maritime Safety Queensland.

All movements of ships 35 metres LOA or more are to be reported through the internet based program QSHIPS.

2.3.1 Reporting movement of ship LOA 35 metres to 50 metres

Reporting movement of ship between 35 and 50 metres LOA is to be made by completing and submitting the 'Reporting movement of ship between 35 and 50 metres LOA (Southport pilotage area)' form (see 7.1) at least 24 hours before the arrival movement and at least two hours prior to any subsequent movement.

2.3.2 Reporting movement of ship LOA 50 metres and over

Reporting movement of ship between 50 metres LOA or greater are to be entered directly into QSHIPS. If an agent or master is unable to submit a booking by QSHIPS, they must complete and submit the VTS A1 ship – Booking Form (Southport Pilotage Area) (see 7.1) to Brisbane VTS vtsbrisbane@msq.qld.gov.au at least 48 hours before the arrival movement and at least 24 hours prior to any subsequent movement.

Reports that cannot be made using the official form shall be made via telephone to VTS Brisbane on +61 7 3623 3900.

2.4 Requests for pilot

2.4.1 Pilotage booking procedure

In order to ensure the services of a pilot, masters of ships should email the completed form (see section 7.2 [VTS A1 ship – Booking Form \(Southport Pilotage Area\)](#)) or telephone the office of Maritime Safety Queensland at the Gold Coast at least 48 hours prior to arrival at the pilot boarding ground.

Telephone numbers for enquiries: +61 7 3623 3900

Email: vtsbrisbane@msq.qld.gov.au

Radio contact should be made with VTS Brisbane on VHF channel 16 two hours prior to arrival at the pilot boarding ground confirming the arrival time.

2.5 Arrivals

Details required at the time of booking include:

- ship's name (and previous name if applicable);
- registration information (number and radio call sign);
- last port of call;
- ship's estimated time of arrival and estimated time of departure;
- ship's draught fore and aft (for arrival and departure) and any information regarding protrusions lower than the ship's keel, stabilisers, propellers and rudders;
- ship's LOA and beam;
- ship's gross registered tonnage;
- pilotage destination;
- number, arrangement and effective power of thrusters;
- preferred side alongside;
- whether ship is conducting own agency; if so, an Australian address for invoicing is required; and
- whether or not standard pilot ladder boarding arrangements exist; if not, clarification of boarding facility is required.

2.6 Pilot boarding arrangements

The [Pilotage Boarding Ground](#) is situated at a position two nautical miles east of the Gold Coast Seaway south wall, in position latitude 27° 56·2' S, longitude 153° 28·2' E.

The location of the pilot boarding ground is affected by ocean swells and it is sometimes difficult for ships to provide a safe lee. Ships should provide a pilot boarding ladder, safety lines and adequate fenders to allow the pilot vessel alongside without contact. Pilot may give instruction prior to boarding for preferred boarding course.

2.7 Maximum vessel size

Due to the nature of the Southport Broadwater and the available depth of water in some channels, certain limitations regarding the movement of vessels must be considered. These are explained in detail in Section 3.